

aeruginosus are active. Associated with the older part of the Bermuda stalactites, I found a small gasteropod mollusc, (*Kaliella turbinata* Gulick), hid away in small holes, or irregularities of their surface. In conclusion, we find by the study of the material from Bermuda, that other algae are concerned in the formation of stalactites besides those described from Yellowstone Park, and if a comparative study were made of stalactitic material from all parts of the world, the writer has no doubt that the list of algae concerned would be a respectable one.

ON ERIGERON PUSILLUS NUTT.

BY N. L. BRITTON

I was much interested in reading Dr. B. L. Robinson's remarks on this species published in *Rhodora* for December, 1913, and, especially, because it was the study of specimens from Bermuda which enabled him to recognize the difference between this species and *E. canadensis* L. During a visit to Bermuda in late May and early June of this year, in company with Mr. Stewardson Brown, we studied these plants in the field, and our observations led us to agree with Dr. Robinson in ability to recognize the two species without any difficulty whatever, Mr. Brown having previously had similar experience in southern New Jersey. From the standpoint of the Bermuda flora, my interest in this plant was again increased because Mr. Oswald A. Reade, in his "Plants of Bermuda," published in 1883, had recorded both *canadensis* and *pusillus* from these islands, although not very well expressing the characters of *pusillus*, which he regarded as a dwarf state of *canadensis*; the purple-tipped involucre bracts, first observed by Dr. Robinson and cited by him as the salient character, are constant in Bermuda and, apparently, throughout the range of the plant in the eastern United States, as also the glabrate feature, entire leaves and smaller size of *E. pusillus*. In Bermuda, the two plants grow side by side in fields and along roadsides, and in some localities, at least, are equally abundant. Intermediate stations between Rhode Island and South Carolina are Bayshore, Long Island (*John McCallum*), Belmar, Monmouth County,

New Jersey (*Taylor 1450*) and New Egypt, Ocean County, New Jersey (*Taylor 2650*), several localities in Cape May County, New Jersey, and Milton, Delaware, reported by Mr. Brown. Additional West Indian stations are Great Bahama (*Brace 3685*, *Britton & Millspaugh 2703* and *2445*); Abaco (*Brace 1827* and *1864*); Andros (*Brace 6996* and *7127*); North Caicos (*Millspaugh 9179*); St. Thomas (*Eggers*); Santo Domingo (*Fuertes 90*); Porto Rico (*Heller 1350*); Vieques (*Shafer 2619A*); Montserrat (*Shafer 14*); St. Kitts (*Britton & Cowell 428*). All the above cited specimens are glabrate, with purple-tipped bracts, and essentially entire leaves (the lower leaves of the North Caicos plant have a few sharp teeth).

In studying West Indian collections, I had long ago noticed the glabrate feature as compared with the hirsute *E. canadensis* of the eastern United States, and had sorted the specimens of our collections in accordance with this feature, but I had not noticed the purple-tipped involucre bracts. We have a large number of specimens from the West Indies which are quite as glabrous as those cited by Dr. Robinson as belonging to *pusillus*, and agreeing with them, apparently, in every other character except that of these purple tips; I cite the following as illustrating this series: Inagua (*Nash & Taylor 1408*); Hog Island, New Providence (*Wilson 8253*); Andros (*Brace 4887*); Great Ragged Island (*Wilson 7877*); Eleuthera (*Coker 381*); Grand Turk (*Nash & Taylor 3865*); Cuba (*Wright 1313*, *Wilson 195* and *243*, *Britton & Shafer 726*, *O'Donovan 5251*, *Leon 1325*, *Shafer 2442*, *Van Hermann 789*); Porto Rico (*Britton & Cowell 1547*); Mona (*Stevens 6391*); Martinique (*Duss 1442*); Guadeloupe (*Duss 2505*); Barbados (*Botanic Station 521*); Jamaica (*Fredholm 3317*); Columbia (*H. H. Smith 527*). It is possible that some of these may have shown purple-tipped involucre bracts in life, but I have not been able to see them in the dried specimens.

It would seem to me probable, therefore, that the characters of purple-tipped involucre scales may not be constant, but that the species must rest on its glabrate feature, usually smaller size, and entire leaves. Inasmuch as I regard these plants as generically distinct from *Erigeron*, I here propose the binomial ***Leptilon pusillum***.

My study of the specimens, in so far as the collections of the New York Botanical Garden illustrate the two species and Mr. Brown's examination of the Philadelphia collections, exclude *Leptilon canadense* from the West Indies, except Bermuda, and also from the southeastern continental United States, south of North Carolina.

The figure accompanying the description of *L. canadensis* in "Illustrated Flora" was drawn from a specimen of *L. pusillum*.

NEWS ITEMS.

We learn from the *Evening Post* that Miss Flora Anderson and Miss Margaret DeMerritt have been appointed as instructors in botany at Wellesley, and that Miss Grace L. Clapp has been appointed to a similar position at Smith.

Doctorates in botany were conferred at the close of the summer quarter of the University of Chicago upon Miss Hannah Aase of Washington State College, Professor J. S. Caldwell of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Professor G. B. Rigg of University of Washington, Professor J. B. Stober, and Miss Eva Schley.

Mr. Adolph Rolloff, director of the State Botanical Garden in Tiflis, Russia, is visiting the botanical gardens of the United States.

We learn from *Science* that Dr. J. J. Tauberhaus has been promoted from assistant to associate research plant pathologist at the Delaware College Agricultural Experiment Station.

From the same source we learn of the death at the age of thirty-seven of Dr. J. E. Gow, who was professor of botany at Coe College.

Mr. Guy R. Bisby who has been conducting investigations on the potato diseases in Maine during the past summer, has returned to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

At the same institution Dr. R. R. Gates has registered for a time as an investigator and Mr. Alfred L. Gundersen has been appointed as assistant in the herbarium.